GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2236
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
AGRICULTURAL WING AT ROME
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an Agricultural wing headed by a senior officer of Joint Secretary rank with the designation of Minister (Agriculture) in Indian Embassy at Rome;

(b) if so, the details of staff strength under this Minister (Agriculture);

(c) the benefit likely to accrue therefrom;

(d) whether some projects are being implemented in States with the assistance from Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The staff strength under Minister (Agriculture) is two, i.e., one Personal Assistant and one Messenger.

(c): The Minister (Agriculture) is Alternative Permanent Representative of India to the three UN organizations namely Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) all with headquarters in Rome. The Indian Ambassador to Italy is concurrently the Permanent Representative of India to these three UN bodies. As per standard practice, these officers look after India`s interest in the three UN agencies, participate in the meetings of their Governing Bodies and various Committees. They also follow up on policy issues and project proposals of interest to India.

(d)&(e): FAO has several project activities of varying degrees of coverage and involvement over a host of States. Some of these are − Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems Project, Water Management Project and Cleaner Fishing Harbours Project in Andhra Pradesh, Agriculture, Man and Ecology Foundation (Project) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) and Irrigation Management Project in Karnataka. Long-term Rehabilitation of Post-Tsunami Fisheries Livelihoods and Sea Safety in Tamil Nadu, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project covering Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

Apart from these, FAO also has small Telefood projects, studies and pilots in Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarkhand, Karnataka, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

In the recent past, FAO has implemented a number of horticulture-related Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) on floriculture in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka, on apples in Himachal Pradesh and on bananas in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

A large programme was on plant quarantine improvement. There was also a Food Insecurity & Vulnerability Information & Mapping System (FIVIMS) project in two States of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. A successful Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) in support of the Ministry of Agriculture and National Programme on Organic Production ended in 2006 covering several States including the North Eastern States.